

Meeting: Congleton Partnership Senior Forum

Date: 26.07.2022 **Time:** 10 am **Location:** Zoom

In attendance: Suzy Firkin, Kate Fallon, Cathy Dean, David Morris, Victoria Mellor, Catherine Sale.

Item	Agenda Item / discussion	Action / comment
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction.</u></p> <p>Suzy Chaired the meeting and gave a brief introduction to the senior forum and its aims. Two new members were welcomed to the group Kate Fallon - CHOC Care Community Support Manager (Cheshire East Integrated Care Partnership) and Victoria Mellor, area manager from Crossroads Together (West Street Day Care Centre).</p> <p>David representing Congleton Lions and Catherine Sale from the social prescribers listened in to the call via phone but couldn't comment due to restrictions with zoom.</p> <p>Ask Catherine if there is a replacement social prescriber covering the Holmes chapel area?</p>	<p>Cathy</p>
2.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Rimone Brady, Glen Williams, Diane Ritherdon and Kay Wesley.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Update on the Buddy and Befriending Service.</u></p> <p>Born out of the covid crisis – the Senior Forum looked for an organisation which was already doing something similar. Changing Lives was chosen as the service provider. Targets were given:</p>	

Overall Referrals Target	Referrals Third quarter	Referrals to date
15	6	22

Overall Matches Target	Matches Achieved Third Quarter	Matches Achieved to date
15	2	17

Overall Volunteer Sign-Up Target	Volunteer Sign-Up Third Quarter	Volunteer Sign-ups to date
13	1	12

Results so far:

Pete Marsden running the project has commented that the Social Prescribers have been a great source of referrals for them.

Catherine commented via email “I can speak on behalf of us all that there is a huge need for befriending in the CHOC area. Changing Lives Together and Pete Marsden has been fantastic with accepting our referrals and matching patients to a befriender quickly. It is a shame that this service is only via telephone.”

A bottleneck in the service seems to be finding volunteers.

A similar service is provided by Snow Angels but they go into people’s homes as well, it would be great if we could expand the scheme. Also, we know of carers who are isolated so could we have a buddy system for carers?

Kate – At Crossroads they do have a ‘Care to Chat’ for carers, only done on a small scale but volunteers commit to ringing for one hour per week, peer support is very effective. We also run a pen-pal scheme.

Carers can also access support at our West Street Day Care service, as they drop people off, we have advisors on hand to answer ad hoc questions that come up, and we do a lot of signposting to other services.

Suzy will be picking up leaflets which promote the services at Crossroads, they also have walk & talk, coffee & chat groups.

	Please visit the website for more information: https://www.crossroadstogether.org.uk/	
4.	<p>Congleton Talking Newspaper</p> <p>We have been discussing for a while ways to help CTN expand its service. Currently distributed to around 30 people played through a boom box and USB stick.</p> <p>Congleton talking newspaper is ready, but we need 3 things in place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A list of recipients 2) Volunteer to distribute the boom box and show how to use it. 3) Postage set-up <p>We would need a volunteer willing to deliver the boom box, once set up there isn't much else to do so commitment in terms of volunteer hours could be quite small.</p> <p>Could the social prescribers recommend people to the scheme, expanding to isolated people or partiality sighted etc?</p> <p>Cathy to speak with Alison Wright CP Volunteer coordinator – can they find someone suitable to volunteer. Would recipients of the existing meal delivery be suitable?</p> <p>David to speak with CTN to see if the existing volunteer would be willing to take on a few more people as we get up and running?</p>	<p>Cathy</p> <p>David</p>
5.	<p>Platinum Jubilee Party</p> <p>The Senior Forum part funded a Platinum Jubilee Party jointly with the Town Council which was a great success, we had some great feedback.</p> <p>It would be great if we could hold an annual tea dance event at the town hall and invite different groups from within the town.</p>	

	<p>We contributed £400 but the figure would likely be much more if we held it again as Jubilee funding will not be around.</p> <p>David – one negative comment was that the group didn't know anything about it.</p> <p>Admittedly it was all arranged very last minute, an email did go round to the group regarding funding the event but Rachel from the town council organised it.</p> <p>David suggested that the Lions would help with volunteers at a future event.</p> <p>Victoria – great idea to hold an annual event, so much hasn't been taken away from people over the last couple of years it's great to have something to look forward to.</p> <p>Cathy to speak to Rachel about the organisation of the event.</p>	<p>Cathy</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Social Care Share Groups.</p> <p>There doesn't seem to be a network or an easy way for all the care/service providers to easily network/contact each other within Congleton.</p> <p>Kate – It's very difficult to map out all the different services that are available. Community exploring meetings have been very useful in the past.</p> <p>Victoria – Originally working in Manchester the network between different services within the community was very strong and make a huge difference.</p> <p>Is this something we can put together?</p> <p>David – keep the meetings very informal, provide the meeting place, simple refreshments, open networking etc.</p> <p>Victoria to suggest a list of organisations to invite.</p>	<p>Victoria</p>

7.	<p>New Project Ideas</p> <p>The Partnership exists to deliver big projects, we are free to think big!</p> <p>Please think of gaps in the provision, what projects do we need?</p> <p>Kate – really good to know that we have further resources to help deliver projects. The research we have conducted on the health side of things shows hypertension and depression as big problems in the area.</p> <p>David – You might be unaware that Lions International has a fund matching scheme, timescales can be 3/6 months so forward planning is needed but something to be aware of. The video link below gives insight into what grants we could look at but as I said they are not a quick process.</p> <p>https://youtu.be/_j6otoDEg-c</p>	ALL
8.	<p>Next Meetings.</p> <p>Tuesday 27th September at 10 am</p> <p>Tuesday 29th November at 10 am</p> <p>Via Zoom or Teams – I will send a calendar invite out with the correct link on.</p>	Cathy

